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ABSTRACT

Library studies in institutions of higher learning in socialist countries regularly include studies of library legislation. The topic is integrated into course syllabuses and textbooks, and is discussed in detail in such courses as "Organization and Management of Librarianship" taught at all library educational institutions in the USSR. This course includes themes on library management, planning of library activities and library science within the USSR, all stressing the importance of legislation. Other courses explore the theoretical aspects of library management in principle and application to include the use of computer technology. A specific course on library legislation addresses the principal library laws of socialist and non-socialist countries; moreover, library legislation is interwoven throughout the student curriculum from the first year of study. Similar programs exist in institutions in the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and other socialist countries. Problems of library legislation and library management will in the future be a chief component in library and bibliographic courses as the concerns of information science become more prominent. (RAA)

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THE STUDY OF PROBLEMS OF LIBRARY LEGISLATION IN THE COURSE OF TRAINING LIBRARY PERSONNEL IN LIBRARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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The state character of librarianship, the planned management of the entire process of the use of books by society represents the main principle of library development in the socialist countries. The socialist principle of Party and State management of cultural and library development is revealed and well-grounded in V.I.Lenin's works. In March of 1920, V.I.Lenin stressed the following: "We must put to use the entire state machinery in order that educational institutions, extra-scholastic education and practical training would develop under the guidance of communists for the proletarians, for workers and working peasants". (Complete collection of works. v.40, p.254). Lenin's instructions concerning the leading role of the Communist Party and the socialist state in the development of a new culture had great impact upon the development of the library service of working-people and the formation of the social functions of libraries in all socialist countries.

State decrees, defining the main trends in librarianship and promoting the improvement and development of library services were regularly passed at all stages of development of the socialist countries. Of these library laws the following deserve special mention. In the USSR: Decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR "On the Centralization of Librarianship in the RSFSR", signed by V.I.Lenin in November of 1920; Enactment of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR: "On Librarianship in the USSR (1934). Of library laws passed in other socialist countries the following are especially important: Enactment

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of the RPR Council of Ministers dealing with measures directed towards the improvement of library services in the Rumanian People's Republic (1951); Enactment of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic concerning the state of librarianship in the country and further measures for the improving of library service (1962); Law on the integrated library system, approved by the National Assembly of the Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic (1959); Polish library law of April 9, 1968; Decree of the GDR Council of Ministers on the tasks of library systems during the period of establishment of the developed system of socialism in the German Democratic Republic (1968); Enactment of the PRB on the approval of the principal propositions concerning the organization of an integrated library system in the People's Republic of Bulgaria (1970); Decree Extraordinary of the Presidium of the Hungarian People's Republic on libraries and the Order of the HPR Council of Ministeries dealing with its realization (1976). The most important of these legislative acts legally consolidated the provisions dealing with the establishment of integrated State library systems in the socialist countries.

Library legislation, which determines the future trends and prospects of the development of library systems in socialist countries, the functions and the place of the library in society are diligently studied by future library specialists, who are trained in spacial educational institutions. Library legislation many=sidedly reflected both in syllabuses of library faculties of institutions of higher learning and text=books

and methodological guides intended for students. All special courses of instruction have sections or chapters devoted to problems of library law and library management. These questions are discussed in detail in the course "Oragnization and manageme nt of librarianship", which is taught on all library faculties of library educational institutions of the USSR.

Special attention in this course is focused on such themes as "Library management", "Plan ning of library activites", "Management of librarianship of the USSR", etc., in which state laws and questions of library management are reflected (See: Organizatsiya i upravleniye bibliotechnym delom. Programma kursa. M. 1977, p.1-10, 12). Thus, the introduction reveals the tasks of this course in the light of the resolutions of the 25th Party Congress and the Decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On the Raising of the Role of Libraries in the Communististic Education of the Work-ing=People and Scientific and Technical Progress". The introduction also gives definitions of such concepts as "organization", "management", "organization of management", etc., and their usage in library science. A prominent place is allotted to Lenin's works dealing with the science of mangement, scientific organization of labour, planned organization of the library system, establishment of an integrated centralized library system. "orks by N.K.Krupskaya devoted to the improvement of librarian-ship and library management and the introduction of new methods of organization of labour are also broadly discussed.

The theoretical problems of library management are examined in the appropriate sections dealing with the essence and

importance of management of librarianship, principles and methods of management, automated management systems functioning in Soviet and foreign libraries. The system of state bodies responsible for the management of librarianship, their duties and functions is a subject which is also described in great detail in the course. The activity of the State Interdepartamental Library Council and problems of coordination and cooperation in librarianship are also broadly discussed. The improving of guidance and management in librarianship in recognized as a major factor in its improvement and long=term development.

Similar questions are examined in the course "Management and planning of library activites" taught at the Institute of Library Science and Scientific Information attached to the Humboldt University in Berlin (GDR). In this course special attention is given to questions connected with the guidance, planning and organization of library actitities, management of librarianship, library statistics and economics of librarianship. This course, one of the most important instruments in the training of library personnel, acquaints students with the achievements in librarianship in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

All library educational institutions in the socialist countries have courses of instruction, which reveal problems of library planning and the fundamentals of library legislation. These courses are based on methodological and theoretic principles which ensue from the Marxist=Leninist teaching on management, scientific organization of labour and the role the socialist

state plays in the development of culture and librarianship.

In the USSR problems of library management and legislation are also examined in the course of studies known as "General course of library science". All students, beginning with the first year of training, study such themes of the course as "The State character of librarianship in the USSR", "Management of librarianship", etc. Here special attention is focused on the leading, organizing role in librarianship of the socialist state, which is manifest in the working out of uniform fundamentals of organization of use of books by society at large, the publication of library laws, which determine the principles of construction of the library system, the establishment of the state machinery for the management of librarianship and the drawing in of the population into library management. The special theme of this course "Library legislation" characterizes the main library laws of socialist and bourgeois states.

Questions of library legislation are also allotted a prominent place in courses of history of librarianship, taught in educational institutions. In the USSR this course includes questions connected with the study of the history of librarianship abroad. (See: Istoriya bibliotechnogo dela v SSSR i za rubezhom. Programma kursa. M., 1977. 31 p.). The courses on the history of librarianship, taught in the library educational institutions of the Bulgarian People's Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic and other socialist states, follow the same pattern. They acquaint students with the history of library legislation, with the main library

laws of their country and of other states. Thus, the course "History of librarianship in the USSR and abroad" special sections describe the reactionary laws of tsarism and expose their anti-popular essence. A prominent place is given to the revelation of the role of Soviet library legislation, its historic role in the establishment of socialist librarianship at all stages of development of the state. The second part of the course familiarizes students with the history of library legislation in foreign countries. The students learn of those cardinal changes, which the world system of socialism that has formed in the 20th century, has introduced into librarianship. They also study the fundamentals of state legislation in librarianship of the socialist states.

All the library laws of the Hungarian People's Republic have found reflection in the course on the history of libraries ~~xfxikexxxxxxxxxxx~~ covered by the plan of training of highly qualified library personnel. It discusses the acts of 1952 and 1956, the Decree Extraordinary of the Hungarian People's Republic on libraries (1976) and the ways and methods of its implementation. This Decree acquaints students with the principles of organization of the state library system, the structure of the different library networks and the integrated library system and with the role of the national library of the country.

The appropriate sections of the course on the history of libraries and librarianship discuss the library laws of the Polish People's Republic: the Decree on libraries and preservation

of library stocks (1946), the Library Law (1968) and other documents. The students also study the measures, carried out in the Polish Peoples Republic in connection with the 30th anniversary of the first library law published in the country in 1976, which was proclaimed as the "Year of the Library and Reading" with the motto "Libraries Contribute to the Country's Development".

The appropriate aspects of library legislation have also found reflection in other courses of instruction taught in the library educational institutions in the socialist countries, including the courses on work with the readers, on library collections and catalogs, on bibliographical and information activities, etc. Thus, the special section which quotes the main clauses of Lenin's "Decree on the Handing Over of Bibliographic Functions in the RSFSR to People's Commissariat of Education" (1920), is found in the course "General Bibliography" intended for students of librarianship in the USSR. The necessity of knowing the principal library laws of the USSR for the profound study of principles governing the building up of library stocks is emphasized in the course "Library Stocks". The course "Library stocks" of the Library Institute of the Bulgarian People's Republic gives a detailed description of the library laws of 1970 and 1973 ("On the Establishment of the National System of Scientific and Technical Information") and their role in the development of library stocks in the country.

Problems of library legislation and library management are also reflected in practical seminars and laboratory lessons, in the diploma theses and students' course papers. In a number of socialist countries these questions have become the subject of

special courses and optional seminars. For example, in the USSR students taking the course for the qualification "methodologist and organizer" study the fundamentals of library management, the newest automated information and library systems, current methods of scientific organization of library work, etc.

In this way questions of library legislation and management make up the methodological basis of the overwhelming majority of library and bibliographical courses in the library institutions in the socialist countries. Some of these courses have special sections and themes in which these questions are studied in great detail. The study of problems of library management and library laws represents a component of organization of independent research and work of the students, the writing of graduation theses and course papers in particular.

Problems of library legislation and library management will in the future come to occupy a more prominent place in library and bibliographical courses. The cardinal reorganization and improvement of special courses of study in library educational institutions imposes new tasks upon the teachers of these subjects, it also makes higher demands of the syllabuses and textbooks. The prospects of development of librarianship in the socialist countries, the further consolidation of integrated State library systems will, undoubtedly, call for the improvement of teaching of such disciplines as library legislation and managements, their more profound study in the library educational institutions in the socialist countries and today the professors and teachers of library departments in the library educational institutions in all the socialist countries are concentrating their efforts on the resolution of these problems.